

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 5174

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY: NOVEMBER 2 SETERRING GROUP MEETING

NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY STEERING GROUP OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET NOV 2 TO DISCUSS REPORTS OF LAND AND AIR FORCES SUB-GROUP. STEERING GROUP WILL ALSO CONSIDER A DRAFT COVER REPORT PREPARED BY NETHERLANDS DELEGATION THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN FORM OF REPORT FROM DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO DPC MISISTERS. TEXT OF DRAFT COVER REPORT IS QUOTED BELOW. MISSION COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

BEGN TEXT

INTRODUCTION:

1. FOLLOWING THE DECISION OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN MINISTERIAL SESSION ON 7TH JUNE, 1973 (1) THE DPC IN PERMANENT SECRET

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SESSION REQUESTED A STEERING GROUP CONSISTING OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES (2) TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALISATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

2. TO THIS END THE STEERING GROUP DECIDED TO ESTABLISH SUBGROUPS ON

LAND FORCES, AIRFORCES, LOGISTICS AND MARITIME FORCES.

THE REPORTS OF THE SUBGROUPS ON LANDFORCES AND AIRFORCES ARE ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT. THE SUBGROUP ON LOGISTICS ONLY MET ONCE AND WAS NOT YET ABLE TO PRODUCE A REPORT, THE SUBGROUP ON MARITIME FORCES WILL HAVE ITS FIRST MEETING IN THE COMING WEEKS. IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT BOTH THESE SUBGROUPS WILL BE ABLE TO SUBMIT A REPORT IN DUE TIME FOR THE SPRING MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN 1974.

LAND FORCES

3. BECAUSE OF TIME LIMITATIONS THE STUDY OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALISATION WITHIN GROUND FORCES FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF THE PROCUREMENT OF THE LANCE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM FOR SUPPORT OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMY CORPS.

FROM THE STUDY IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT LANCE IS NOT SUITABLE FOR SPECIALISATION AND THAT THE EXISTING PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ALREADY AFFORDS OPTIMUM EFFICIENCIES AND ECONOMIES IN PRODUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING, WHICH ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SPECIALISATION CONCEPT.

4. THE STUDY FURTHER INDICATES A NUMBER OF AREAS OFFERING INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES FOR SPECIALISATION IN THE LONGER TERM. AMONGST THESE ARE CORPS UNITS EQUIPPED WITH EXPENSIVE AND/OR SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, CORPS OPERATIONAL LOGISTICS AND TRAINING, OBSTACLE CROSSING CAPABILITIES, WINTER WARFARE AND DEFENSIVE MINELAYING.

(1) DPC/D(73)13 DATED 12TH JUNE, 1973

(2) BELGIUM, CANADA, GERMANY, LUXEMBURG, NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES.

AIRFORCES

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5. THE STUDY CONCLUDES THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE WOULD BEST BE

SERVED IF THE NETHERLANDS WERE TO SPECIALIZE IN CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS WITH A CAPABILITY FOR LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY AND A

LIMITED NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE THE REVISION OF THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS FORCE PROPOSALS IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

6. A MAJORITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY ON POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALISATION OF AIRFORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE STUDY CAN BE CONSIDERED CONCLUDED AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY THE SUBGROUP ON AIRFORCES SHOULD BE DISBANDED. OTHERS EXPRESSED THE STRONG VIEW THAT THE SUBGROUP SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT MINISTERS:

(A) TAKE NOTE OF THIS REPORT AND ITS ANNEXES;

B) INVITE THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO ARRANGE FOR REPORTS ON THE
POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALISATION IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN THE FIELDS
OF MARITIME FORCES AND LOGISTICS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THEM AT THEIR
NEXT SPRING MEETING;

C) INVITE THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO ARRANGE FOR THE CONTINUATION

OF THE STUDY REGARDING SPECIALISATION WITHIN LAND FORCES AND TO
REPORT TO THEM AT THEIR SPRING 1974 MEETING.

D) INVITE THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO REVIEW THE DESIRABILITY OF
CONTINUING THE STUDY REGARDING AIRFORCES.

E) ENCOURAGE THE NETHERLANDS TO PROCURE A MODERN SSM SYSTEM.

F) ENCOURAGE THE NETHERLANDS, WHEN REEQUIPING ITS F104G SQUADRONS, TO
SPECIALISE BY CONCENTRATING ON CONVENTIONAL OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS
WITH A CAPABILITY FOR LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY AND A LIMITED NUCLEAR
CAPABILITY AIMING AT A REPLACEMENT OF ASSIGNED AIRCRAT ON A ONE
FOR ONE BASIS.

END OF TEXT.

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